

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Forty years ago, my husband and I moved to the hills of Redwood Valley. We were delighted with the beautiful view of the hills and mountains to the west of us. A few years after settling in, we had a sinking feeling as we watched a bulldozer topple the walnut orchard on the knoll across the way. To our relief a vineyard took its place. However, as of last year, that dread came to reality as we are now staring at thirteen, glaringly bright, white hoop houses on that very knoll.

To my knowledge we have to make peace with this new unappealing sight, but when the County Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance was first approved my understanding was that we might be looking at several thousand feet of green canopy not a block of hoop houses covered in disposable plastic. This change came about at the discretion of the Planning and Building Department, rather than by following what the original county ordinance specified. Why are we allowing conversion of our agricultural land with buildings such as hoop houses? Why don't we encourage our large scale hoop house development on commercial and industrial zoned lands?

The above is only one reason we should not abandon our cannabis ordinance, but rather enforce it. It will preserve our largely undeveloped open space (including our rangelands), prohibit tree removal for cannabis cultivation, and help prevent degradation of the environment. We have a well thought out, specific plan for Mendocino County; one we should enforce and continue to strengthen. Without it, I am afraid we may destroy the very things that drew many of us herethe natural beauty of its unencumbered landscape and its wild inhabitants. We still have the opportunity to this preserve this unique portion of the state.

Sincerely,

Diane Clifton